Lawyer Cleared

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RICHMOND (AP)—The Virginia State Bar's Third District Committee Tuesday dismissed charges that lawyer Philip J. Hirschkop violated bar rules against out-of-court statements and conflict of interest.

Hirschkop said from his Alexandria home that he wasn't surprised the charges were dismissed but was annoyed that he had had to came to Richmond to defend himself in an afternoon hearing Tuesday.

The bar committee could have asked the local circuit court to reprimand, suspend or disbar Hirschkop.

He was accused of violating the rule against out-of-court statements by telling reporters that six state prison officials, indicted for misconduct in office, were "goodguys."

And he was charged with violating the conflict of interest rule by representing indicted penal official Dennis Gallagher while also handling a federal court suit against penal officials.